

1999 COLORADO WEATHER SUMMARY IN BRIEF

(Source: Colorado Climate Center, Colorado State University)

January - Statewide temperatures ranged from 5 degrees above average over southeast Colorado to 10 degrees above average for some of the western valleys. A series of storms that brought heavy precipitation to the Pacific Northwest were responsible for the above average precipitation in Colorado's north and central mountains. Southeast Colorado was also wetter than average but western, southern, and northeastern areas were all very dry.

February - Unseasonably warm temperatures continued statewide. For the month as a whole, temperatures ended up about 4-6 degrees above average over Western Colorado, increasing to 6-8 degrees above average over the Eastern Plains. Frequent strong winds buffeted exposed areas along the Front Range and Eastern Plains. Precipitation was well below average statewide except for a small portion of the central mountains along the Continental Divide and the extreme northwest. Several stations on the Eastern Plains reported no measurable precipitation for the entire month.

March - Yet another unseasonably warm month continued during March. Temperatures for the month averaged 6-8 degrees above the 30 year average over all of western Colorado. Eastern Colorado was a bit cooler, averaging 4-6 degrees above average, but locally less than 2 degrees above average in the Arkansas Valley from La Junta eastward. That area coincided with the only portion of the state receiving appreciable precipitation during March. In other areas, precipitation was very scant, with many areas in and near the mountains receiving less than half the average amounts.

April - There was a dramatic shift in weather patterns during April. Numerous storms took aim on the state throughout the month, but the last 11 days brought daily and occasionally very heavy precipitation. Precipitation for the month ended up more than double the average along the Front Range and adjacent plains. Only the extreme northeast and northern mountains received less than 150 percent of average precipitation. Cooler than average temperatures accompanied the wet weather with most of the state ending the month 2-4 degrees below average.

May - Above average precipitation continued into May over much of southern Colorado, bringing welcomed moisture to the southern mountains. Precipitation was lighter over northern areas and in local areas near Grand Junction. Statewide, however, May precipitation was above average. Temperatures were on the cool side, ending the month 1-2 degrees below average.

June - Seasonal weather prevailed during June. Cooler and showery weather early in the month gave way to hot and dry weather for the last half of the month except for portions of eastern Colorado where locally heavy thunderstorms continued throughout the month. Precipitation totals ended near average across the state as a whole, but ranged from much below average over the northwest, southeast, and much of the South Platte Valley to over average in the southwest and east central areas. It was cooler than average for most of the month but warmer during the last week.

July - Hot summer weather prevailed through July with frequent thunderstorms. Most of the state was significantly wetter than average with many stations in the southwest receiving more than 200 percent of average. Some isolated areas south and east of Denver received less than half of their July average. Temperatures were warmer than average in most areas. Daytime temperatures were a little cooler than average but nighttime readings were quite warm.

August - The warm, humid and stormy weather that began in July continued into August, especially in and near the mountains. Many locations in the state received well over double the average rainfall. Several weather stations in southwestern and eastern Colorado received in excess of seven inches of rain. This helped refill reservoirs in southwestern areas and maintained forage growth for grazing areas. As in July, average temperatures were near to slightly above normal. Again, daily maximums were cooler than usual, but nighttime temperatures were warmer than usual as a result of the stormy weather and higher humidity.

September - The stagnant weather patterns of summer gave way to more changeable weather in September. A lively early-winter storm brought the first snow and hard freeze of the fall to portions of northeastern Colorado. Most of the state received less precipitation than average although some areas were wetter than average, especially the northeast. The month began on a warm note, but three strong cold fronts progressively dropped temperatures during each of the last three weeks of the month and resulted in the subfreezing temperatures late in the month.

October - Weather during October was delightful, with an abundance of warm sunny days, deep blue skies, dry air, light breezes, and cool crisp nights. There were wide variations in day-night temperatures, with forty to fifty degree temperature swings were common. Most of the state was drier than average with many areas well below 50 percent of average. The only relatively wet areas were found along the Front Range, the urban corridor and southeastern counties. October temperatures were near to a little below average over eastern area while western areas were mostly near to above average.

November - Winter was slow to get started as unseasonably warm temperatures and limited precipitation persisted to near Thanksgiving. A taste of winter arrived on the 21st in the form of sharply cooler temperatures and a significant snowstorm. November temperatures were much above average statewide, ranging from 5 degrees above normal on the Western Slope to 8 degrees above average in some areas east of the mountains.

December - The stable and persisting weather pattern of November gave way to more changeable, faster moving systems in December. Pacific moisture made its way into the northern and central mountains on several occasions. However, little moisture extended southward. Precipitation was below average over most of the state. Temperatures were reasonably mild for most of the month with some stations in the northeast being six degrees above average.